



TOM CILMI
Suffolk County Legislator
10th District

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Cilmi Bill Clarifies Suffolk Hiring Procedures

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi is proposing changes to the Suffolk County Charter to require Legislative approval for all prospective employees who reside outside of Suffolk and Nassau Counties. The law as presently written allows the County Executive to hire from outside those areas "provided that the County Executive proposes a Resolution" asking for a waiver of the residency law.

Cilmi says the language allows non-residents to be hired without Legislative approval. He said, "The intent of the law is clear. There are thousands of highly educated, experienced residents here in Suffolk County. The Legislature wants to make absolutely sure there is good reason to hire a non-resident. Unfortunately, the way the law is currently worded, a non-resident can be hired without Legislative authorization."

Cilmi's proposal comes on the heels of a recent request for a temporary waiver of the residency requirement. Although the employee had been hired in late December, the waiver request wasn't made until late February. Cilmi said he didn't think it was fair to the employee at this point to deny the request, but immediately began working on his proposal to prevent such a predicament in the future.

Regardless of whether or not Cilmi's bill, IR-1208-2013, passes, anyone seeking a waiver must relocate to Suffolk County within a year of the date of hire.

Cilmi says that all too often, government finds "re-treads" to hire. "Little effort is typically made to hire from outside the box," Cilmi said, "and if we don't hire from outside the box, too much of our thinking continues to be inside the box. We want to find the best candidates for the job but whenever possible, we want them to live here in Suffolk."